

on September 1, 1913, and in which he worked as a student assistant until 1918. During this time he supervised the moving of the Academy's library from its old temporary quarters on Sansome Street, San Francisco, to the new building in Golden Gate Park. Later, he assisted with the installation of the Steinhart Aquarium Library. In 1927 he became Assistant Librarian, leaving the following year for a position with the Guyot Hall Library (geology) at Princeton University. His next position was bibliographer for the Army Medical Library in Washington, D. C., and more recently he served as librarian of the Line School at the U. S. Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, which he left to return to the Academy.

Allyn G. Smith, of Berkeley, joined the Academy staff on January 1, 1956, as a Research Malacologist, Department of Geology and Paleontology. Mr. Smith, too, is not a newcomer, having served as a Research Associate in Conchology for a number of years on a part-time basis. He also worked part time on both the Army and Navy optical contracts under Dr. Hanna's direction during World War II. He is a life member and a Fellow of the Academy and is currently president of the American Malacological Union. Mr. Smith's interest in recent land, fresh-water, and marine shells began while he was in high school—an interest he carried on actively as a hobby during his business career. His appointment to the Academy's staff followed his retirement from Pacific Telephone where he was engaged in personnel administration activities in the company's headquarters for 32 years. Mr. Smith's private shell collection, representing 45 years' work and consisting of nearly 10,000 accession numbers, has been donated to the Academy and will be merged with its already extensive collection of shells. It is especially rich in land shells from California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and in chitons (sea cradles) from the Pacific Coast of the United States, which have been his specialties.

ASTRONOMY SECTION

THE ASTRONOMY SECTION will meet Wednesday, January 25, at 8 P. M. in the Students' Lecture Room. The program will be: "The Almanac, and Astronomical Events of 1956." Leon Salanave will be in charge of the meeting. Weather permitting, there will be a telescope session on the roof.

NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of December 13, 1955:

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Jack E. Goshkin
Mr. John H. Hoeck
Miss Loretta Lawrence
Mr. Owen Pearce
Mr. Edwin L. Sargeant

Mr. Arthur C. Thomson
Mr. Robert E. Wallace
Mr. Thomas S. Wyman

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. W. H. Stellner
Mrs. Raymond H. Thayer

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. P. W. Tomkins

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Jean Larson
Donald O'Donnell

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

NUMBER 193

JANUARY, 1956



WELL-DRESSED SCIENTIST IN ALASKA

(See Page 2)

Published Monthly by

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO

January Announcement

THE REGULAR January meeting of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 P. M., Friday, January 27, in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium. Cleveland P. Grant, Audubon screen tour lecturer, will present a color film:

"AMERICAN BIRDS AND BIG GAME"

In this famous film Grant has embodied in one program the best sequences from twenty years of skilled and patient photography. The motion picture follows the annual cycle of changing instincts among different birds . . . starting in early spring with migration, then courtship, nesting, care of the young and the return migration. Opening shots are of myriad migrating snow geese. Sequences on the courtship of the ruffed grouse, prairie chicken, and redhead duck are followed by family-life interviews with blue-winged teal and shoveler ducks. For contrast and variety, a rare sequence on a wild red fox vixen with her eight puppies is added.

The second reel is on North American big game.

In the late summer Grant spent a month on horseback in the Canadian Rockies riding 400 miles along that portion of the Continental Divide that forms the boundary between Alberta and British Columbia. There in the great wilderness, he found big game animals that few people ever see, including grizzly bears and the remaining great caribou herds.

In the past two decades Grant has shot more than fifty miles of motion picture film on the native wild birds and animals of North America. During this period, he estimates, he has delivered some five thousand wildlife lectures to audiences totaling well over a million seven hundred thousand people. Grant was graduated from Oberlin College and was on the staff of the Chicago Natural History Museum for six years before he began devoting full time to motion picture photography.

ALASKA PHOTOS DISPLAYED

AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY to view a collection of photographs from the "Frozen North" is afforded by a public display in Lovell White Hall. Candid and other shots show scenes captured on film by Dr. and Mrs. G. Dallas Hanna during their summer's stay at Pt. Barrow where Dr. Hanna was serving as Director of the Arctic Research Laboratory, on temporary leave from the Academy. Also displayed are photographs of glaciers and other Alaskan terrain taken from the air during earlier expeditions of which Dr. Hanna was a member. *Piece de resistance* of the display are kodachrome slides of flowers of the Arctic tundra in all their delicate beauty, which must be seen to be fully appreciated. Dr. Hanna, whose picture on the cover of this NEWS LETTER illustrates what the best-dressed scientist in Alaska might wear while on duty, points out that taking pictures under far-below-zero temperature conditions presents unusual

problems. Shutters and other delicate camera mechanisms freeze up and refuse to operate unless kept warm until the actual instant of shooting, or else have to be specially treated to work under prevailing conditions.

BOTANY CLUB TO SEE PT. BARROW PHOTOS

DR. JOHN THOMAS HOWELL, the Academy's curator of botany and Mrs. G. Dallas Hanna are scheduled for a talk sponsored by the Botany Club in the Auditorium on Thursday, February 9, at 2 P. M. Their talk, appropriately titled "From Winter to Winter," will cover a complete change of the seasons in and around Pt. Barrow. It will be illustrated with kodachrome slides showing the beautiful Arctic flowers growing in the tundra, beach scenes and general views of this ice-ringed region. Academy members and the public are invited.

THE SOUND OF A DUGONG—CONCLUDED

DR. EARL S. HERALD of Steinhart Aquarium performed a sad duty the other day. He was required by unforeseen circumstances to post a death notice on the tank formerly occupied by "Eugenie," the Dugong, the Academy's rare sea cow which died at 7 A. M., Tuesday, December 27.

"Eugenie," who came to the Academy in mid-November, created widespread interest. "Her" likeness appeared in several well-known magazines. "She" was undoubtedly the most popular exhibit the Aquarium ever had, according to Dr. Herald, and was docile and showed not the slightest fear of "her" Aquarium handlers.

"Eugenie" arrived in San Francisco suffering from a spear wound inflicted by the native who captured "her" in the Palau Islands. This deep wound was at first thought to be the cause of "Eugenie's" death, although the 180-pound mammal had been eating well and gaining weight. However, an autopsy made by Dr. Robert T. Orr, the Academy's curator of birds and mammals, revealed "Eugenie" had actually died of pneumonia. Even more startling to the scientific staff was the discovery that "Eugenie" was misnamed. In short, "she" was a "he" and should have been called Eugene.

"Eugenie," or Eugene, at least has served the cause of science. Dr. Orr reckoned it a rare opportunity to be able to study the anatomy of this little-known mammal. Plaster casts of the animal's head and flippers were made and over-all photographs and complete measurements were taken for future scientific reference.

Word of "Eugenie's" demise is rumored to have been sorrowfully recorded in far places, the last report having been seen in the press of Japan.

Dr. Herald, curator of aquatic biology and head of the Aquarium, says the dugong is seldom seen by man. He doesn't know yet how it can be done, but he hopes to get another specimen. So until this happens the only sound emitted by a dugong, so far as we know, is spelled phonetically as follows:

ADDITIONS TO ACADEMY STAFF

A MOST WELCOME ADDITION to the Academy's library staff occurred on November 21, 1955, with the return of Ignatius McGuire, who was appointed Associate Librarian. Mr. McGuire is no stranger to the Library, which he first joined